

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 COME-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 TRSE-00  
AID-05 CEA-01 AGRE-00 /121 W  
-----111036 080938Z /23

R 080914Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8620  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 10417

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC  
GENEVA FOR USMTN  
USOECD PARIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: JA, ASEAN  
SUBJECT: JAPAN-ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING

REF: TOKYO 10171

1. SUMMARY: MOFA LOOKS UPON UPCOMING JAPAN-ASEAN BILATERAL  
IN PATTAYA AS OCCASION TO REVIEW PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION  
OF FUKUDA DOCTRINE, WHICH IT ARGUES HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL,  
AND TO REINFORCE POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS  
OF JAPAN-ASEAN DIALOGUE. END SUMMARY

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2. FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA, DEPUTY VICE MINISTER MIYAZAKI  
AND SUPPORTING ENTOURAGE WILL VISIT THAILAND JUNE 16-20 FOR  
ONE-DAY (JUNE 17) MEETING WITH ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS AT  
PATTAYA FOLLOWED BY TWO-DAYS OF JAPAN-THAI BILATERALS IN  
BANGKOK. ACCORDING TO MOFA REGIONAL POLICY DIVDIR  
SEKI, JAPANESE LOOKUPON PATTAYA MEETING AS OCCASION TO  
REVIEW BOTH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ASPECTS OF JAPAN-ASEAN

DIALOGUE. ON ECONOMIC SIDE, AGENDA WILL PROVIDE FOR DISCUSSION OF PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING FIVE INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS, FOLLOW-UP TO MAY 30-JUNE 1 MTN DISCUSSIONS IN TOKYO, AS WELL AS GENERAL REVIEW OF ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP.

3. WITH RESPECT TO FIVE INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS, SEKI SAID JAPANESE CONTINUE TO TAKE VIEW THAT BALL IS SQUARELY IN ASEAN COURT, WITH NEED FOR PROGRESS IN FEASIBILITY STUDIES BEFORE MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION OF IMPLEMENTATION CAN TAKE PLACE. SEKI NOTED THAT JAPANESE IN EFFORT TO MOVE SITUATION ALONG HAVE PARTICIPATED IN ONE DEGREE OR ANOTHER IN FEASIBILITY STUDIES THEMSELVES, WITH EXCEPTION OF SINGAPORE PROJECT, WHERE GOS PREFERRED NO OUTSIDE HELP. HE FELT THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR FURTHER ACTION BY ASEAN GOVERNMENTS PRIOR TO NEXT STEPS BY JAPAN WAS WIDELY UNDERSTOOD AT ASEAN WORKING LEVEL, BUT HOPED REALIZATION WOULD FILTER UP AND BE ACKNOWLEDGED AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL AS WELL. HE BEMOANED FACT THAT PRESS REPORTING, AND HENCE PUBLIC PERCEPTION IN SEA, CONTINUED TO BE ALONG LINES THAT JAPANESE WERE DRAGGING THEIR FEET.

4. AS FOR MTN FOLLOWUP DISCUSSIONS, SEKI WAS DOUBTFUL THAT SONODA WOULD HAVE ANYTHING PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY TO ANNOUNCE TO ASEAN COLLEAGUES AS RESULT OF INTRA-GOJ REVIEW NOW UNDERWAY (REFTEL). HE DID FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT ASEAN HAD GAINED BETTER UNDERSTANDING AS RESULT OF RECENT TOKYO MEETING OF CONSTRAINTS GOJ WAS FACING, AND WAS PERHAPS CONFIDENTIAL

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"LESS UNHAPPY" THAN BEFORE WITH JAPANESE PERFORMANCE. IN ADDITION TO FOREGOING, SEKI THOUGHT SONODA WOULD BE PREPARED TO INFORM ASEAN MINISTERS OF MAJOR (3 BILLION YEN) CONTRIBUTION TO TIN BUFFER STOCK FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS. SEKI CONFIRMED THAT JAPAN-ASEAN EXPERTS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JAKARTA AT END OF MAY TO STUDY PROPOSED STABEX SCHEME HAD BEEN CANCELLED BUT DID NOT INDICATE IN WHAT MANNER SUBJECT MIGHT BE TAKEN UP AGAIN BETWEEN TWO SIDES. (DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS THIS WITH DEPUTY DIRGEN NISHIYAMA, NOW IN WASHINGTON.)

5. FINALLY, SEKI SAID SONODA WOULD BE PREPARED TO NOTE TO ASSEMBLED FOREIGN MINISTERS HIS WILLINGNESS TO CONVEY ANY PARTICULAR CONCERNS THEY MIGHT HAVE TO BONN SUMMIT. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S OBSERVATION THAT OTHER SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS, NOTABLY OURSELVES, HAD OUR OWN CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH ASEAN GOVERNMENTS, SEKI EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE MAJOR THEME IN SONODA'S PRESENTATION, BUT THAT IT DID NOT SEEM INAPPROPRIATE FOR HIM AT LEAST TO MAKE OFFER.

6. JAPANESE EXPECTED MAJOR PORTION OF FORMAL AGENDA WOULD

BE DEVOTED TO POLITICAL ASPECT OF JAPAN-ASEAN RELATIONSHIP AS WELL AS TO MORE GENERAL POLITICAL DISCUSSION. JAPANESE WOULD HOPE TO REVIEW ASEAN-INDOCHINA RELATIONS, ASEAN PERCEPTIONS OF INTRA-INDOCHINA STRESSES, SRV-PRC RELATIONS, AND ASEAN-PRC TIES. IN ADDITION TO ELABORATING ON THEIR OWN ROLE IN REGION, JAPANESE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSION OF ROLES OF "OUTSIDE POWERS," AND IN THIS CONNECTION, SONODA WOULD HOPE TO CONVEY IMPRESSIONS GOJ LEADERSHIP HAD GAINED OF U.S. POLICY THROUGH CARTER-FUKUDA SUMMIT AND RECENT BRZEZINSKI CONVERSATIONS IN TOKYO.

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7. SEKI SAID MOFA GENERALLY TOOK VIEW THAT JAPAN-ASEAN TIES WERE IN GOOD SHAPE TEN MONTHS AFTER PROMULGATION OF FUKUDA DOCTRINE, WITH GOJ HAVING ESTABLISHED HIGHLY DEFENSIBLE RECORD OF FOLLOW-THROUGH WITH RESPECT TO COMMITMENTS UNDERTAKEN BY FUKUDA DURING HIS AUGUST 1977 SWING THROUGH REGION. WHILE MOFA RECOGNIZED ASEAN MEMBERS FELT SOME FRUSTRATION WITH GOJ PERFORMANCE, PARTICULARLY IN AREA OF TRADE CONCESSIONS, SEKI HOPED GOJ WOULD BE GIVEN FULL CREDIT FOR HONEST EFFORT, AND GENERALLY FORTHCOMING POSTURE.

8. COMMENT: GOJ IS ASSEMBLING BEST POSSIBLE CASE IN EXPECTATION ITS RECORD VIS-A-VIS ASEAN SINCE FUKUDA VISIT WILL RECEIVE SHARP SCRUTINY IN PATTAYA. WHILE GOJ DESIRE TO HAVE FULL DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL SIDE OF RELATIONSHIP COULD BE PROMPTED IN PART BY WISH TO DIVERT ATTENTION  
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FROM POTENTIALLY MORE CONTENTIOUS ECONOMIC QUESTIONS, JAPANESE DO PLACE CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE ON FURTHER DEVELOPING THIS LESS HERALDED ASPECT OF THEIR SOUTHEAST ASIAN ROLE, WHICH IN SENSE WAS MAJOR PURPOSE OF FUKUDA DOCTRINE. DESPITE ABSENCE OF ANY EVIDENCE THAT EITHER ASEAN OR JAPAN'S FELLOW INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES FEEL ANY NEED FOR JAPANESE INTERMEDIARY ROLE IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH ONE ANOTHER, IDEA APPARENTLY RETAINS SOME APPEAL WITHIN GOJ. MANSFIELD

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## Message Attributes

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